

# Original Proposed 13th Amendment to the Constitution

NO AMENDMENT shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State,

with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State.

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## Questions:

1. In your own words, summarize what Lincoln is saying in these two excerpts from his first inaugural address. What is he promising?
2. Which part or parts of the country do you think Lincoln is mainly speaking to in these excerpts?
3. Put the original 13th Amendment in your own words.
4. By the time Abraham Lincoln gave this inaugural address in March 1861, seven states had already seceded from the Union. Why do you think these southern states did not accept his offer and return to the Union?